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Mechanichenski Savod in Obninskoye

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1. The Mechanichenski Savod (mechanical plant), also called Institute W or Institute 3, was situated near Obninskoye about 108 km southwest of Moscow at the Moscow-Gomel railroad line. The plant was situated west of Obninskoye railroad station and covered an area of 2,000 x 3,000 meters.
2. The compound had formerly been an educational establishment for problem children. During World War II, it was occupied by Spanish children who had been brought to the USSR during the Spanish civil war. Since 1946, research work was done in the compound. German specialists were employed there from 1946 to 1953, by which time all German specialists, with the exception of Professor Pose, had been transferred to different places. Several of them were brought to Sukhum. Several of the research groups were split up. In view of the installations existing at the compound, it is believed that the institute does atomic research.
3. Prior to 1949, all atomic research work was subordinate to the 9th Main Administration of the Ministry of the Interior in Moscow. Information is available that, in 1949, all atomic research was

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placed under the supervision of the 1st Department of the USSR Council of Ministers. The scope of the research work remains unaltered by this measure. The 9th Main Administration of the Ministry of the Interior is headed by General Lieutenant Savenyagin (fnu). His deputies are Sverjev (fnu) and Kuznezov (fnu).

4. Colonel Sakharov (fnu) [redacted] was chief of the general administration of the compound. His task in the compound were of a strictly political nature. His advisor in scientific questions was candidate Krassin (fnu). Scientific managers of the institute were:

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Professor Leipunski (fnu) [redacted]
 Professor Blochinzev (fnu) [redacted]

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The German group was headed by Professor Heinz Pose. No organizational details are available. A total of 40 German and 100 Soviet experts assisted by 500 to 600 workers were employed at the compound. Among the 100 Soviet experts there were 30 to 40 percent practicers. A total of 1,800 to 2,000 persons lived in the compound. The working time was 8 hours. The plant designation gives no clue about the nature of the work performed.

Tasks assigned to the institute.

5. No specific information is available as to the tasks assigned to the institute. Work was done in the field of nuclear research. It appears that no complete research problems were posed to the institute, but that it was charged with the testing and checking of research work performed at other installations. The tasks assigned to the German experts were interrupted after they had achieved some preliminary results. Considerable progress had been made by the end of the period under review compared with the stage reached in nuclear research in 1945. Nevertheless, the experts of the enterprise were of the opinion that their work did not come up to West European standards. They even expected that they might fail to catch up with them. Procedure which have already been published in Western scientific literature are kept secret in the USSR. Some persons had the idea that the Soviets were secretive in order to conceal their back-wardness.
6. It was learned that sintering materials (Sinterstoffe), was a bottleneck. No details were available as to what kind of material was involved. Another bottleneck was found in the field of hard ceramics. Beryllium was in short supply. The uneven electric power supply experienced during the early days at the institute impeded or damaged running experiments. These difficulties were apparently overcome by the installation of a new Diesel power plant.

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7. It is believed that the departure of the German experts left no gaps among the scientific personnel. Since 1949, all German scientists who will be able to continue the work adequately. Ample funds were available to provide for all requirements and to prevent any delay in the work.
8. The compound was guarded by a battalion of MVD soldiers who wore uniforms with blue shoulder patches and red-rimmed blue caps. The identity cards (probus), which were renewed twice a year, were checked at the guarded main entrance. The compound was surrounded by a 3-meter high barbed wire fence. The western boundary was formed by the 20-meter wide Bravda river and was guarded by patrols. No air raid precautionary measures were seen. No AAA protective measures were observed. With the exception of the green-painted roofs no camouflage measures were taken. Fire control measures did not surpass normal standards. The compound had no fire brigade of its own.
9. Social contact between the Germans and Soviet civilians was forbidden and this regulation was generally followed. A family with the name Kraft was mentioned.
10. The Warsaw - Kutno - Posen - Frankfurt/Oder railroad was double-tracked throughout its entire length. All bridges were guarded. No AAA emplacements were observed, nor any larger concentrations of locomotives, railroad cars or extensive coal dumps on Polish territory. On Soviet territory, the Yaroslavl - Moscow railroad line was electrified double-track with overhead line.

Other Institutes [REDACTED]

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11. The following institutes were reported:

Institute Sinop, headed by Maifred von Ardenne
 Institute Agudzeri, headed by Professor Gustav Hertz
 Institute of Professor Dr. Max Vollmer
 Institute of Professor Robert Doepal, located at the edge of Moscow
 Institute Elektrostalyi, headed by Dr. Nikolaus Riehl, from which all German experts were reportedly withdrawn in early 1949.

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German Experts Employed at Institute V

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Scientific personnel:

Professor Heinz Foss

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Dr. Ernst Basse

Dr. Werner Czilius

Dr. Hermann (fm)

Dr. Hans Keppel

Dr. Hans Krueger

Dr. Helene Kuelz

Graduate physicist.

Kurt Moeller

Dipl. Ing. Hans von Oertzen

Dipl. Ing. Heinz Rackwitz

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Dr. Karl Heinrich Riewe

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Dr. Helmut Scheffers

Dipl. Ing. Fritz Schmidt

Dr. Karl Friedrich Weiss

Dr. Westermeyer (fru)

Frl. Britta Wiedemann

Technical Personnel:

Engineer Fritz Engelhard

Walter Hofmann

Lehmann (fru)

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Hugo Mainers

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Herst Nowack

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Werner Pose

Tschirner (fmu)

Gustav Uhlmann

Eduard Urban

Karl Wacker

Walter (fmu)

Wauschkuhn

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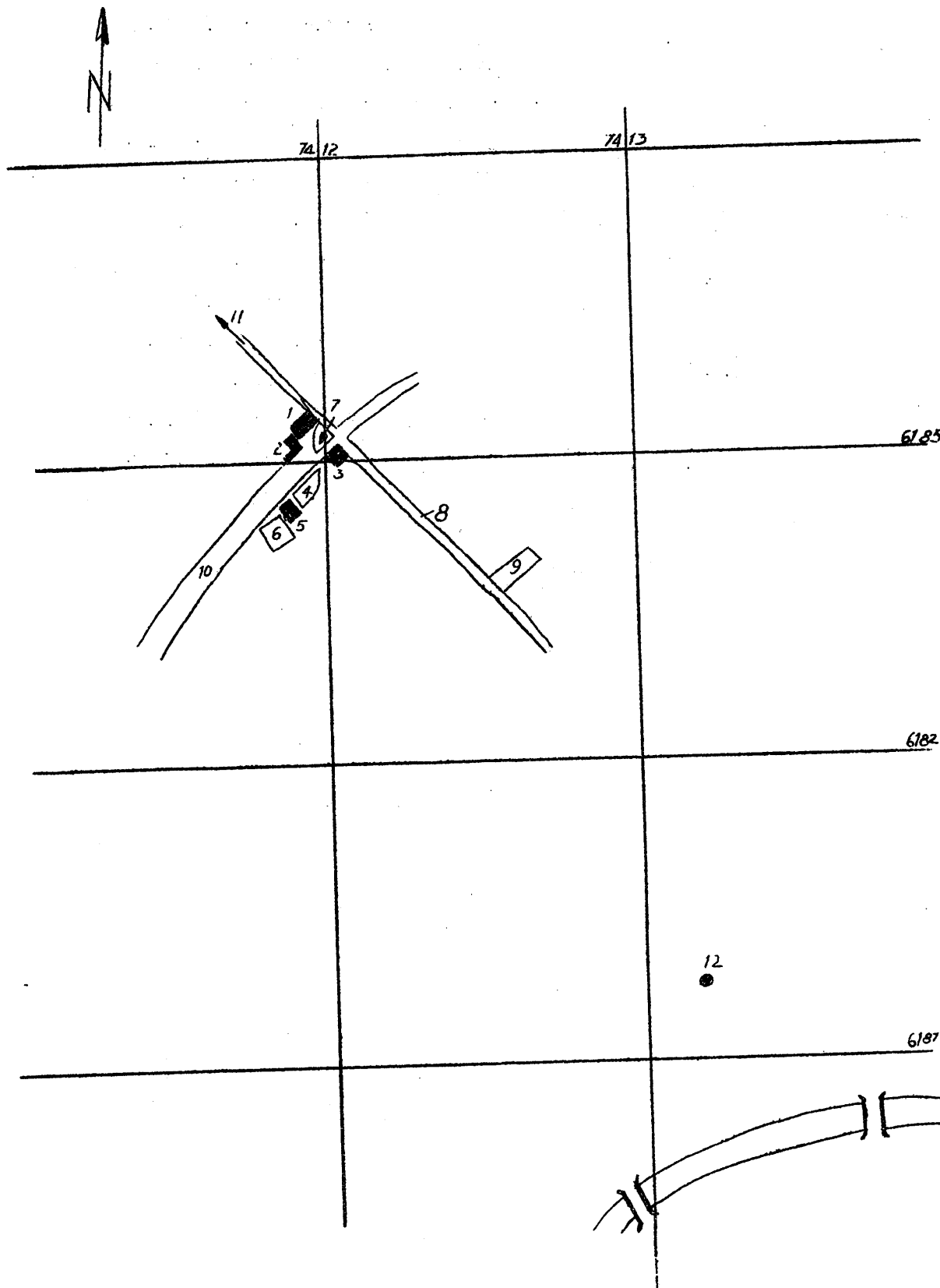
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Sketch No. 1

Location of MVD Ninth Chief Directorate in Moscow

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Legend for Sketch No. 1

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- 1 - house built about 1910
- 2 - Ninth Chief Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior
- 3 - underground railway station and theater
- 4 - park
- 5 - administration of civil industry
- 6 - Lenin Institute
- 7 - Mayakovskiy Square
- 8 - Gorkiy Street
- 9 - Pushkin Square
- 10 - Sadova Street
- 11 - road leading to Leningrad Highway
- 12 - Kremlin

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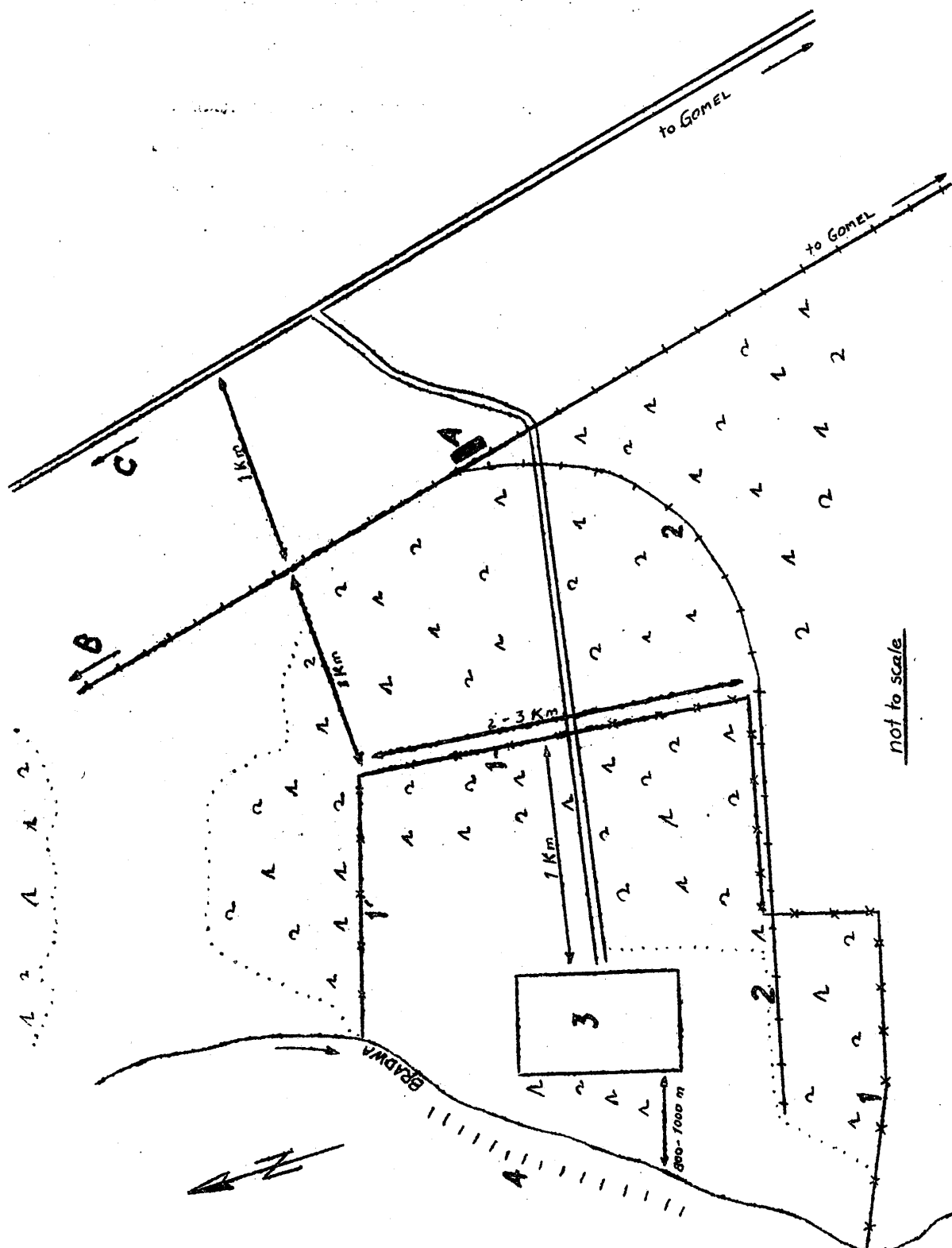
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Sketch No. 2

Location of Institute V at Obninskoye

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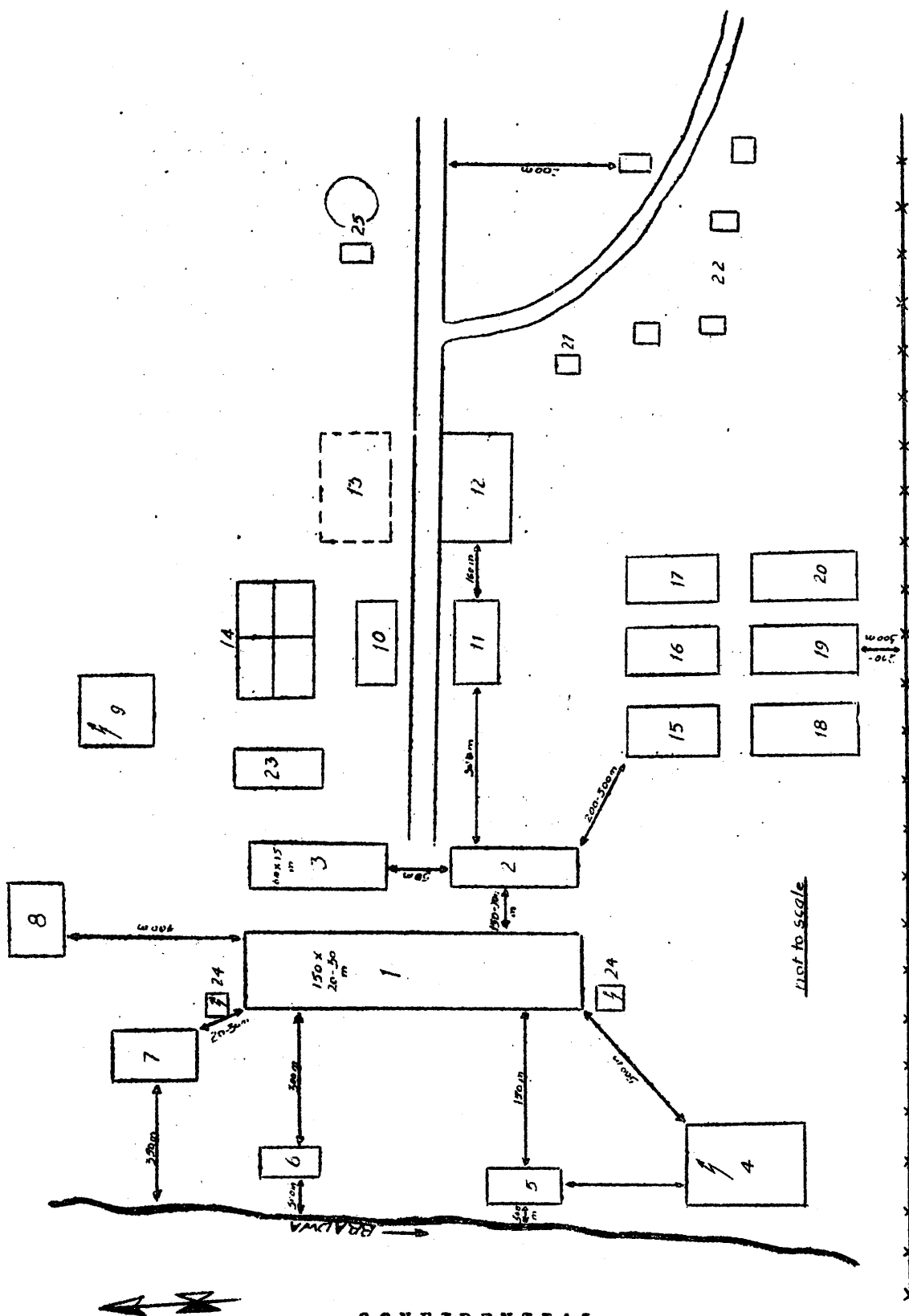


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Layout of Institute V



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25X1Legend for Sketch No. 3

- 1 - Main Building. An old 3-story brick building, 150 x 20 x 30 meters, including a built-out attic, green painted sheet-metal roof, and a basement.
The ground floor in its center portion contained a lecture room for about 300 persons. On either side were laboratories and single rooms. Dr. Koepfel's chemical laboratory was situated in the southern portion of the building; the library was situated in the northern portion. The library stock consisted mainly of books formerly belonging to the university of Halle, among them a great number of English books.
The second floor contained Dr. Riese's laboratories where, at a later date, Dr. Krueger was employed. Both worked with spectographs. On the same floor, Dr. Riese worked on technological problems and was engaged in the development of sintering materials (Sinter-oder Sickerstoffe).
The attic housed the accountant's office and the administration office.
- 2 - Club house, a new building, 60 x 15 meters.
- 3 - Economics department, outpatient department, Secret Office, and office of the chief of the institute. A new building, 60 x 15 meters, massive construction, with a wooden roof construction covered with sheet metal. Completed in 1949.
The accountant's office and the economic administration as well as the outpatient department were located in the basement. The upper floor housed the Secret Office, the counter espionage department.
One Stupinskiy (fnu) [redacted] was chief of the operation department.
- 4 - Electricity Plant new building, 30 x 20 meters, massive construction, with a 15-meter high chimney on top. Electricity was generated with coal shipped to the station on the spur track and a monthly rate of 6 carloads of 60 tons each. The power line from the station to the compound ran underground.
- 5 - Diesel power station, new building, massive construction, begun in 1949, completed in 1950. Previously, a Diesel train consisting of railroad cars with a power unit was located in the compound. After completion of the building in 1949, above unit was installed there. A temporary track was laid for transportation purposes and was later removed. The Diesel generator was of an undetermined Soviet make.
- 6 - Dr. Weiss' laboratory. One-story new building, the size of a one-family house.
The laboratory was located in a ravine. The building was fenced in and guarded. It was supposed to be the research center of the plant. It was believed to be unparalleled by any laboratory in Germany. All sentries were most carefully checked. Before completion of this building, Dr. Weiss had worked at a small log house (21) where he had suffered severe burns. [redacted] big drying kilns available in the new building. An accident once occurred when one of the kilns went above its standard temperature and caused its footings to melt.

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- 7 - High voltage plant. A new concrete building, 30 x 30 x 30 meters, with very few windows, erected in 1949, not in operation in 1950. Germans were not allowed to enter this building.
- 8 - Guest house, an old 2-story building, the size of a villa.
- 9 - Old electricity plant, 10 x 15 meters, one story building, massive construction with thatched roof. This station was equipped with two Diesel power engines and served as an emergency station.
- 10 - New houses, 20 x 10 meters each, massive construction, with ground floor and first floor, completed in 1948. Wooden roof
- 11 constructions covered with sheet metal roofs. The houses had basements but no air raid shelters.
- 12 - School. This building consisted of 10 class-rooms, a gymnastics room and 4 other rooms, as well as laboratories and workrooms for teaching purposes.
- 13 - New building, allegedly a club house. A bowling alley was under construction.
- 14 - Tennis courts.
- 15 - New houses, massive construction, 2-story buildings. Each floor accommodates 6 flats of 3 or 4 rooms.
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- 21 - Log house. New building, formerly Dr. Weiss' laboratory.
- 22 - Group of log houses, new buildings.
A group of 30 log houses, are located within the compound; another 50 outside its boundaries. The German experts lived in these log houses.
- 23 - House.
- 24 - Transformer stations, new buildings.
- 25 - Water tower, supplying the water required in the compound.

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